

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of providing multi-extension functionality to a group of mobile terminals in a wireless communication network, comprising:

5 receiving a call at a switching center directed to a common number shared by two or more mobile terminals, and connecting said call to at least one of said mobile terminals.

10 2. The method of claim 1 wherein connecting said call to at least one of said mobile terminals comprises:

selecting one or more mobile terminals sharing said common number; and connecting said call to said selected mobile terminals.

15 3. The method of claim 2 wherein selecting one or more mobile terminals sharing said common number comprises:

prompting a caller to select at least one mobile terminal sharing said common number;

receiving the caller's selection; and

connecting said call to the mobile terminal selected by the caller.

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4. The method of claim 4 further comprising establishing a group call if the caller selects two or more mobile terminals.

25 5. The method of claim 1 wherein connecting said call to at least one of said mobile terminals comprises establishing a group call involving two or more mobile terminals.

6. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

maintaining a subscriber database accessible to said switching center for storing
said common number shared by two or more mobile terminals, wherein
said switching center accesses said subscriber database to identify said
mobile terminals.

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7. A method of providing multi-extension functionality to a group of mobile terminals in a wireless communication network, comprising:

receiving a call at a switching center directed to a called number; and
determining whether the called number is a common number shared by two or
5 more mobile terminals.

8. The method of claim 7 further comprising storing subscriber phone numbers in a subscriber database, said database further including data indicating whether a subscriber phone number is a common number, and using said subscriber database to determine whether the called number is a common number shared by two or more mobile terminals.

9. The method of claim 7 further comprising, if said called number is a common number, connecting said call to at least one mobile terminal sharing said common number.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein connecting said call to at least one mobile terminal sharing said common number comprises:

selecting one or more mobile terminals sharing said common number; and
20 connecting said call to said selected mobile terminals.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein selecting one or more mobile terminals sharing said common number comprises:

prompting a caller to select at least one mobile terminal sharing said common
25 number;
receiving the caller's selection; and

connecting said call to the mobile terminal selected by the caller.

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising establishing a group call if the caller selects two or more mobile terminals.

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13. The method of claim 9 wherein connecting said call to at least one mobile terminal sharing said common number comprises establishing a group call involving two or more mobile terminals.

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14. The method of claim 7 further comprising:
maintaining a subscriber database accessible to said switching center for storing said common number shared by two or more mobile terminals, wherein said switching center accesses said subscriber database to identify said mobile terminals.

15. A method of providing multi-extension functionality to a group of mobile terminals in a wireless communication network, comprising:

storing subscriber phone numbers in a subscriber database, said subscriber database including data indicating whether a subscriber phone number is 5 a common number shared by two or more mobile terminals;
determining whether a called number associated with a call is a common number shared by two or more mobile terminals; and
connecting calls directed to a common number to at least one mobile terminal associated with the common number.

10 16. The method of claim 15 wherein connecting calls directed to a common number to at least one mobile terminal associated with the common number comprises:

selecting one or more mobile terminals sharing said common number; and
connecting said call to said selected mobile terminals.

15 17. The method of claim 16 wherein selecting one or more mobile terminals sharing said common number comprises:

prompting a caller to select at least one mobile terminal sharing said common number;
20 receiving the caller's selection; and
connecting said call to the mobile terminal selected by the caller.

18. The method of claim 17 further comprising establishing a group call if the caller selects two or more mobile terminals.

19. The method of claim 15 wherein connecting calls directed to a common number to at least one mobile terminal associated with the common number comprises establishing a group call involving two or more mobile terminals.

5 20. The method of claim 15 further comprising:

maintaining a subscriber database for storing said common number shared by two or more mobile terminals; and

accessing said subscriber database to identify said mobile terminals.

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21. A method of providing multi-extension functionality to a group of mobile terminals in a wireless communication network, comprising:

assigning a common number to a group of two or more mobile terminals;

routing calls directed to said common number to at least one of said group of

5 mobile terminals.

22. The method of claim 21 wherein routing calls directed to said common number to at least one of said group of mobile terminals comprises routing said calls to all said mobile terminals in said group.

10 23. The method of claim 22 wherein only the first said mobile terminal to answer said call is connected to the caller.

15 24. The method of claim 22 wherein all said mobile terminals that answer said call are connected to the caller.

20 25. The method of claim 21 wherein routing calls directed to said common number to at least one of said group of mobile terminals comprises routing said calls to one or more of said group of mobile terminals in response to a selection by the caller.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein the caller is provided a list of mobile terminals in said group and is prompted to select one or more of said mobile terminals.

27. The method of claim 26 wherein the caller is provided the option to select the first 25 of said mobile terminals to answer said call.

28. The method of claim 26 wherein the caller is provided the option to select all of said mobile terminals.

29. The method of claim 21 further comprising storing in said at least one subscriber 5 database, data indicating whether said common number is associated with a group of mobile terminals.

30. The method of claim 21 wherein said subscriber database includes a unique identifier associated with mobile terminal, and further comprising storing in said 10 subscriber database, data indicating the last known position of said respective mobile terminal.

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31. A method of placing a call from any of a group of mobile terminals, in a wireless communication network capable of reporting the telephone number of the originating mobile terminal, comprising:

assigning a common number to a group of two or more mobile terminals, each

5 said mobile terminal associated with a telephone number;

when a mobile terminal in said group with an individual telephone number

originates a call, reporting said common number in lieu of the individual telephone number of the originating mobile terminal.

10 32. The method of claim 31 wherein reporting said common number in lieu of the individual telephone number associated with said mobile terminal comprises blocking the reporting of the telephone number of the originating mobile terminal if said communication network is incapable of reporting said common number.

15 33. The method of claim 31 wherein reporting said common number in lieu of the individual telephone number associated with said mobile terminal comprises reporting said common number in response to the number called.

20 34. The method of claim 33 wherein said common number is not reported in lieu of said telephone number if said number called is associated with a mobile terminal within said group.

25 35. The method of claim 33 further comprising storing a list of at least one trusted telephone number associated with said telephone number in said at least one subscriber database, and wherein said common number is not reported in lieu of said telephone number if said number called is included in said list of trusted telephone numbers.

36. A wireless communication network, comprising:
a database storing subscriber information, said database storing at least one
common number associated with a group of mobile terminals; and
a mobile switching center operative to route calls to one of said mobile terminals
in said group when a call is placed by a party to said common number.

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37. The network of claim 36 wherein said mobile switching center pages all available
mobile terminals in said group, and routes said call to the first mobile terminal in said
group to answer.

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38. The network of claim 36 wherein said mobile switching center calls all available
mobile terminals in said group, and routes said call to all mobile terminals in said group
to answer, forming a conference call.

39. The network of claim 36 wherein said mobile switching center prompts said party
to select a mobile terminal from said group, and routes said call to the selected mobile
terminal.

40. A subscriber database for a wireless communication network, comprising:
a subscriber profile table for storing subscriber phone numbers and associating
each subscriber phone number with at least one mobile terminal;
said subscriber profile table including data indicating whether a subscriber phone
number is a common number shared by two or more mobile terminals.

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41. The database of claim 40 further comprising data identifying the mobile terminals
in said group.

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42. The database of claim 40 further comprising data indicating the last known
position of a mobile terminal in said group.

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43. The database of claim 40 further comprising data relating to the putative user of
a mobile terminal in said group.

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44. The database of claim 40 further comprising data associated with said common
number, said data indicating the order in which mobile terminals in said group should be
called.